

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to all the points of rejections raised by the Examiner in the non-final Office Action dated February 24, 2004. No amendments have been made to the claims. Claims 24-75 are pending in this application. Entry and consideration of the Response are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 24, 30, 36 and 42-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,184,932 to Tanaka (hereafter Tanaka). Claims 46, 48-51, 54, 56-59, 62, 64-67, 70 and 73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,438,190 to Kaneda et al (hereafter Kaneda).

Additionally, claims 25, 26-29, 31, 32-35, 37 and 38-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka. Claims 52, 53, 60, 61, 68 and 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneda, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,556,416 to Kyuma et al (hereafter Kyuma). Finally, claims 47, 55, 63, 71, 72, 74 and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneda, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,436,684 to Hirasawa (hereafter Hirasawa).

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 and § 103

In the present invention recited in claims 24-45, a period at which focus states are detected is changed on the basis of a zooming speed and blurring. Thus, the blurring that results from the change in zooming speed is prevented. With regard to claims 46-75, the present

invention is directed to a unit driving amount of a focus lens that is changed in accordance with a zooming speed.

Tanaka

On the contrary, Tanaka discloses a lens control method that compensates blurring, which is caused by movement of a zooming lens, by moving a compensation lens. In Tanaka, the precision of a position control of the compensation lens in zooming operations is improved by making a period, at which a position of the compensation lens is detected and controlled, shorter than a period of V-SYNC at which each image is outputted. *this is a detection of the focus state.* However, the period at which focus states are detected is constant and is equal to the period of V-SYNC. Therefore, Tanaka does not disclose or suggest *the period at which the focus states are detected being changed on the basis of a zooming speed.*

Kaneda

In Kaneda, moving speed of a focus lens which is selected on the basis of positions of a zooming lens and focus lens, is changed in accordance with a depth of field and focus state. However, the period at which focus states are detected is not changed. Therefore, Kaneda does not disclose or suggest the structure of the present invention that *the period at which the focus states are detected being changed on the basis of a zooming speed.*

Therefore, based on the foregoing, claims 24-45 are not believed to be anticipated or rendered obvious in view of Tanaka and Kaneda, individually or in combination. Moreover, with respect to claims 46-75, in Kaneda moving speed of a focus lens is determined on the basis

is a "unit driving amount"

of positions of a zooming lens and focus lens, but a unit driving amount of a focus lens is not changed in accordance with zooming speed. Therefore, claims 24-75 are not anticipated or rendered obvious in view of Tanaka and Kaneda, individually or in combination. *not claimed*

Kyuma and Hirasawa

Kyuma and Hirasawa do not appear to overcome the deficiencies not above in Tanaka and Kaneda to render obvious the claims of the present invention. Accordingly, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the teachings of Tanaka, Kaneda, Kyuma and Hirasawa, the combination still would not teach or suggest all the features recited in the above claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4494.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4494.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:



Mark D. Pratt

Registration No. 45,794

(202) 857-7887 Telephone

(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

345 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10154-0053